



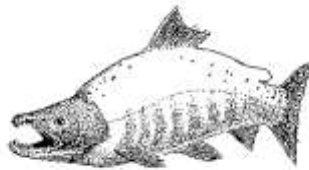
# **Humboldt Fish Action Council (HFAC)/CDFG Site Handbook**





## **Watershed Stewards Project Mission**

The mission of the AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project is to conserve, restore, and enhance anadromous watersheds for future generations by linking education with high quality scientific practices.



*Sockeye Salmon*



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## **Introduction**

### **WELCOME TO THE HFAC SITE FOR THE WATERSHED STEWARDS PROJECT!**

Consider yourselves lucky as you've found yourself in one of the best sites that AmeriCorps WSP has to offer according to evaluations from past members. This handbook covers most of the basic information you need to know about project activities so be sure to read it!

### **SITE DIRECTIONS:**

The DFG office in Arcata is located in the industrial park off West End Road. To get there, travel north on Hwy 101 and take the 299 exit east, just north of Arcata. Take the first exit after that and turn right onto Giuntoli Rd. Take another quick right on West End Rd. Directly after the Renner Gas Station, take a left on Alder Grove Rd. Cross the track and go over speed bumps and turn on Ericson Way. Then take a left on Ericson Ct. and the office is the second building on the right. If you prefer to stay off the highway you can take West End Rd off of Alliance from town. Turn right at the Renner Gas Station on Alder Grove Rd and continue as directed above.

There is no office for HFAC yet, so for now, you'll need to know how to get to the HFAC plant nursery where a lot of time is spent, which is in Blue Lake on Hatchery Rd. Take the 299 exit north of Arcata going east. Travel approximately 5 miles and take the Blue Lake exit. Take the first right off the roundabout. Then turn left on S Railroad Ave. (next left) and drive through the small town of Blue Lake. You'll reach Hatchery Road in the middle of town and you'll take a right. Follow the road all the way across the Mad River and the Nursery is on your right hand side of the road. Look for the large shade house.

You can also reach the nursery from the DFG office by heading east on West End Rd for approximately 6 miles. Turn left onto Hatchery Rd and the nursery is on your left after ~ .5 miles.

### **Site Description (s)**

#### **Arcata Department of Fish and Game:**

Most likely, you will meet for the first time at the Department of Fish and Game office in Arcata. Your DFG mentors are Seth Ricker and Teri Moore. Although you can always ask Seth questions, You will spend more time with Teri on a day-to-day basis.

During the busiest time of the field season; Seth schedules a staff meeting every Monday morning to discuss staff concerns and to plan the week's sampling activities. Be ready to head out into the field on day one and every day thereafter.

The majority of the fieldwork (which is extensive, as this site is for field junkies); revolves around Freshwater Creek. To familiarize you with the project activities and fieldwork locations, an experienced staff member will give you a tour of the weir, fish traps, tributaries and road systems where you'll be spending your time.

Refer to the site duties calendar for more information about the workload during different times of the year.

#### **Humboldt Fish Action Council:**



HFAC is a non-profit organization currently directed by mentor Doug Kelly. Doug Kelly runs the organization and will be in charge of Individual Service Projects (ISPs) and the weekend volunteer days. You will be spending most of your time with Suzanne Isaacs, out at the HFAC nursery in Blue Lake. Suzanne is the botanist and nursery manager. Thursday and Friday are typically spent out at the nursery but this can change based on the season.

The office for HFAC is currently mobile, as there is central locale for all of the project employees. Consider your office the hut at the nursery on the Mad River.

## **Description of Site Duties**

### **Arcata DFG:**

#### **Spawner surveys**

During spawner survey season, be prepared to get up early (usually at the office by 0700!). While performing the surveys you will hike upstream over rocks, mud and logs in cold, swift water looking for salmon carcasses, salmon nests (redds), and LIVE FISH! You will also learn to use a GPS and enter data into a hand-held personal digital assistant (PDA).

#### **Upstream migrant trapping**

Between October and February, members may assist with trapping and tagging adult salmonids migrating into Freshwater Creek. Fish captured at the HFAC weir, measured, and marked. During peak migration times, the weir will be staffed 24 hours/day. Therefore, you must be prepared to work at any time of the night or day if necessary.

#### **Downstream migrant trapping**

Between March and August, members will assist with tapping and tagging juvenile salmonids emigrating from Freshwater Creek. Juvenile salmonids captured in the downstream migrant trap located at the HFAC weir will be measured, weighed, marked and released. Other fish species will be identified, counted and released. During peak migration times and while adult steelhead may be heading back to the ocean, the weir must be checked during the night. Therefore, be prepared to work at any time of the night or day if necessary.

#### **Data entry**

For the most part, data collected for this project will be entered into the PDA while you are in the field. It is very important to pay attention while you are entering data because it is very easy to make mistakes. If you have problems or do not understand something ask a more experienced person.

#### **Other**

In addition to the activities listed above, members may participate in seining, snorkeling, and trapping projects managed by other DFG programs as long as it does not interfere with scheduled AFRAMP activities. Also, be prepared to pitch in with cleaning and maintaining field gear and work areas. If there is anything you would like to learn, don't be afraid to ask!

## **HFAC:**

#### **Volunteer Workdays**

During the spring and fall months, Doug Kelly organizes Saturday volunteers work days. They usually consist of invasive plant removal or native tree planting. You get to help coordinate (paper work) and run these events. Many of these events end up being other WSPers' ISPs. Usually a good group of folks from HSU comes out as well as WSP and community members making Saturdays in service quite enjoyable. You are typically needed from 8:30-2.



### Habitat Typing

Often there is no habitat-typing due to organization of landowner permission, but the site can have some. Doug will organize this with the landowners. Expect take the training WSP offers for habitat typing.

### Nursery Work

Most of HFAC time is spent out at the nursery on Thursday and Friday. It is a great way to end the week and get into the heat in the summer. There are a variety of tasks to be done here and they change with the seasons. They range from transplanting, watering, seed collecting, pest eradication, organizing and cleaning. Year 17 was involved in a nursery construction project.

### Extra Projects

This site provides a variety of work activities. Be ready to work on whatever project is at hand and learn new skills. Ask about extra projects because all mentors are open to providing you with opportunities to learn new things as it does not interfere with scheduled HFAC duties.

## General Calendar of Duties at HFAC / DFG

| Month         | Location         | Site Duties   | Work Load     | Typical Work Hours  |
|---------------|------------------|---|---------------|---|
| <b>Winter</b> |                  |   |               |   |
| January       | Field            | WSP January Orientation; spawner surveys; adult trapping;                                 | Busy          | 8-10 hour days – 5+ days/wk (Sun-Sat anytime of day or night) |
| February      | Classroom/Field  | Spawner surveys; nursery training; adult trapping   | Busy          | 8-10 hour days – 5+ days/wk (Sun-Sat anytime of day or night) |
| <b>Spring</b> |                  |   |               |   |
| March         | Classrooms/Field | Downstream migrant trapping (DSMT); nursery Transplanting;                                | Busy          | 8-10 hour days – 5 days/wk (Sat-Sun 8-5)                      |
| April         | Classrooms/Field | Education/Outreach; DSMT; nursery transplanting   | Busy          | 8-10 hour days – 5 days/wk (Sat-Sun 8-5)                      |
| May           | Classrooms/Field | WSP Spring Training; Education/Outreach; DSMT; nursery transplanting;                     | Busy          | 8 hour days – 5 days/wk (Sat-Sun 8-5)                         |
| <b>Summer</b> |                  |   |               |   |
| June          | Field/Office     | Data organization; education/outreach; nursery work; DFG upkeep                           | Moderate      | 8 hour days – 5 days/wk (Sat-Sun 8-4:30)                      |
| July          | Field/Office     | Data organization; nursery work; DFG upkeep   | Moderate      | 8 hour days – 5 days/wk (Sat-Sun 8-4:30)                      |
| <b>Fall</b>   |                  |   |               |   |
| October       | Field/Office     | HFAC restoration work; nursery order preparation; DFG juvenile abundance surveys          | Moderate/Busy | Varies from 4 – 5 days a week, 8 – 10 hours a day.            |
| November      | Field/Office     | Spawner survey training; spawner surveys; weir training; nursery order Prep and planting. | Moderate/Busy | Varies from 4 – 5 days a week, 8 – 10 hours a day.            |



## **Individual Service Projects (ISPS) and Outreach Events**

### **ISP Information**

The Individual Service Project (ISP) which you will host is fairly painless at this placement site. As you may already know, Doug Kelly runs a series of volunteer work days for many weeks each spring and fall. Most likely in the spring he will come out with a list of days that he has different projects planned which are generally invasive species removals, tree plantings and creek clean-ups, all of which are located in the Humboldt Bay area.

My advice would be to go to Suzanne within the first month of your placement and ask her for the list of projects so you can get a choice. The reason for this is that many of the other AmeriCorps members in the area (e.g., Fortuna and Eureka) will be coming to him too as these events will serve as a number of other WSPers' ISPs.

By the way, since Suzanne is your mentor, you will be involved in nearly all of these events taking care of the paperwork sections and volunteer logs.

Once you set a date for your event:

The WSP Member Handbook is a good place to look for information that will help you to prioritize; but to give you the general idea:

**Construct a Flyer** to post around town at grocery stores, HSU campus and local bulletin boards (i.e. the one in the CO-OP parking lot). To help, there is already a template flyer (FLYER EXAMPLE) made on the DFG Sci-aid Room computers located at **X:\Americorps\ISP stuff** (X: is simply the X drive, which is the same as the "SciAide" drive in 'My Computer').

**Send out Public Service Announcements (PSAs)** and **Press Releases** to the local radio stations and newspapers. There is an example of a press release in the same folder as the flyer that has been corrected by the WSP head office, called "PRESS RELEASE EXAMPLE." There is no PSA example in that folder, however there are plenty in the WSP Member Handbook.

**Give out Food Donation Letters** to local grocers such as Wildberries, Safeway, the CO-OP in Arcata, Eureka Natural Foods, Bien Padre and Casa Lindra. (There are many other places to try too) There is an example of a food donation letter, once again in the 'ISP stuff' folder, called DONATION LETTER EXAMPLE. If you use the same donation letter, make sure you double check to change the name of the store, date, address, header, etc. I accidentally turned in a Eureka Natural Foods letter to the Co-op this year. Needless to say, I did not get a donation from them.

Make sure you return to the grocery store in 2-4 days to check to make sure the manager was able to review the letter. Many times they will get it right away and possibly have a donation there waiting for you.

**Get the Food List from Doug!** Sometimes this isn't an easy thing to do, but every week Doug will come out with a food list of what needs to be purchased in order to serve food at the event. This will let you know how exactly what to request for donations.

There are quite a few other things some members end up having to do on their own time for their ISPs, but since Doug is such a big help on these, you really don't need to get access, equipment, permits or anything like that. Basically, just recruit volunteers and feed them.

Lastly, there is always paperwork that goes into each of these outreach events. Volunteers will be filling out anywhere from 3 to 5 different sheets when they get to the event, and if this is your ISP, make sure you have enough of the WSP Volunteer Logs for them to sign, which serve as the



liability releases. I believe there should only be one format for this found on the WSP website, and this is the document that you will be sending in to the head office after the event for proof that you recruited the required volunteer total.

Oh, and the **Natural Resources (NR) Club** at Humboldt State University. This year at the events, more than half of the participating volunteers at the workday events were from this club, so I highly suggest that you make sure Doug has them in line to attend your event. They are a super fun group who work hard!

## Outreach Information

There is no shortage of outreach opportunities to be found at this site. First of all, plan on helping Doug on his volunteer workdays in the spring and fall. Two of those will most likely be you and your field partner's ISPs. But any other project which you are aiding Doug on can be counted as outreach hours. Other members that come volunteer at these events may not record hours if they are being counted as a volunteer by another WSP person for their ISP. However you CAN call this outreach because you are helping Doug and it is part of your normal work day. Although if you do claim hours, you cannot be counted as a volunteer for the event.

### Other Outreach Opportunities:

**Mad River Hatchery Tours** – This happens from Jan-March and is easy and fun. Give hatchery tours to visiting students and groups. One of the WSP Team Leaders will coordinate this.

**Humboldt Annual First Flush** – When the first rains come in the winter (Sept-Oct). Aid in sampling and testing streams for run-off. Good thing to look into if you're interested in water quality monitoring.

**Extra Education** – Just as a reminder, any classroom education you do that does not qualify for your Real Science teaching (less than six visits) will be Community Outreach on your time sheet.

**Weir Tours** – Since you'll be working at the Freshwater Creek weir, there will be a number of opportunities to get some of the local school classes to come on out for a field trip of sorts. Although some schools are not within walking distance and would have to put extra effort in transporting kids by bus, Freshwater Elementary is just across the road. Various classes have come over for 2-4 hours to get a tour and play games in the yard there.

**Creek Days Environmental Education Fair**– Camp out in the redwoods for a week teaching kids about nature and awareness. For WSP's Central Region members this is a mandatory outreach event, which is a good thing. You'll find out all you need to know about this week from the Education Team Leader. This happens in May.

**Hoopla Fish Fair and Fish Lake Fishing Derby** – Do these too! Go spend the weekend in Hoopa or Orleans with the Northern Region WSPers. It's a good opportunity to teach kids in Hoopa and volunteer to help at the fishing derby the next day. Plus, this is a great time to check out the area on the Klamath and Trinity Rivers in case you may be thinking of doing a second year there. Generally, this is in the beginning of June. Contact the USFS Orleans WSP members for the dates.

**River Dives** – There are three main river dives that you should try to volunteer at in July on the Smith, Salmon, and Mattole Rivers. Trust me, this is possibly the coolest thing you may do in your WSP experience. Get trained to swim and count fish whilst getting paid! There should be emails about these opportunities coming as summer approaches.

Lastly, be looking for emails from the Outreach Team Leader in Fortuna who will be sending,



literally, more emails about outreach opportunities than you will ever have time for!

## Education

### Education Notes

At this placement site, like most others, it is essential to get started on your Real Science education right away. It's really nice to have all of the education requirements taken care of by the time summer approaches. Otherwise, you'll be stuck trying to squeeze in classes in the fall, which is one of the busiest times of the year for Seth's crew. I would recommend beginning the education process after you take the first 2 weeks or so to settle into the site.

A helpful thing about working in the Central Region, specifically the Arcata-Eureka-Fortuna area, is that the classes you'll be teaching will be assigned to you by the Education Team Leader (ETL). Year 15 taught at Freshwater Elementary (across from the weir), Fieldbrook Elementary, Jacoby Creek Elementary, and Garfield Elementary all were grade 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>.

The first thing to do is **contact the teachers via phone or email** as soon as the ETL sends out the class assignments. Here is a good time to **set a date to meet** with the teachers and discuss the curriculum for the six classroom visits. If you want to get started before the assignments reach you, call the ETL who can get the info for you over the phone, or call the Freshwater School at 707-442-1405 and ask for Tom Davies or Kari Holmberg, the two fourth grade teachers whose classes who were taught in year 15. (You can definitely count on this school being in your classroom assignments)

Once you have contacted the teachers, begin the process of **designing the six-class layout**, which is required for your efforts to be considered Real Science education (*see next page for example*). Any amount less than six, such as one to five visits will count as Community Outreach. Using the **Education Handbook**, **education bin** or some of the **materials provided** in the back end of the education section of this handbook, plan your days with lessons and hands-on activities. Daily lessons could cover: habitat, salmonid life cycle, watersheds, anatomy, human impact, limiting factors, macroorganisms, the water cycle or hydrology. WSPers will be teaching kids anywhere in the range of kindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, so plan lessons accordingly.

**TWO THINGS BEFORE YOUR FIRST DAY OF CLASS:** You must **bring the Teacher Contract** for you and the teacher to fill out together. Your first "set-up" meeting is a great time for this. You need to **discuss which Real Science pre-test should be administered** to your students. All tests (A, B, C, and D) are included in the Education Handbook and on the WSP website. Bring the tests for the teacher to see. Tests B or C will most likely be their choice. It will be helpful if you **give the tests to the teacher so they can complete them before your first day** of class, which will save a lot of time. After the end, turn in the **Pre/post Test Tally Sheet** and **Education Log** (both on the WSP website) to the ETL.



## Site/Region Specific Education Resources

### Curriculum Example Day 1 – Salmonid Life Cycle and Human Impact

I would recommend to **CONTACT MIKE WALLACE** in the other DFG office next door to yours. He used to be an education coordinator and he has a GREAT slide show that covers life cycle and habitat. It's an old school slide reel, but works great, and has only pictures. This is great for younger kids so they can SEE what you are talking about.

### Day 2 – Watersheds and Salmon Habitat

These lessons often go hand in hand with the salmonid life cycle. On one of these first two days, a large portion of your classroom time will be spent outside, weather permitting, and depending on what types of games you'd like to play with the kids. There are tons of game options for both Day 1 and Day 2 topics.

### Day 3 – Field Trip: HFAC Weir Tour

This may not be an option for schools other than Freshwater because transporting kids can be difficult. Nevertheless, this should be a "must" for this school since the weir will most likely still be monitored for adult passage. Plan the day to take kids to the weir to show them what happens just across the street from them. Note: depending on when you set up classes, if you save the field trip to the end of the curriculum, Downstream Migrant Trapping may have already begun which could also be cool as the chances of kids seeing fish are near 100%.

### Day 4 – Fish Anatomy and Dissection

There are a number of hatcheries that have fish for you to take into the class for dissection - just make sure to let the ETL know you need it at least a couple weeks in advance. Every once in a while a child can't handle this, but for the most part, this is all students' favorite day. Just make sure to alert the teacher that there will be a dissection on a certain day, as she may have to order up permission slips for the event.

### Day 5 – Wrap Up, Fish Jeopardy and Testing

This is a fun day for the kids but Jeopardy can also be brutal if not handled right. Kids can be competitive, but with care, this game can serve as a great refresher for all things the students learned over the past weeks. On the last day **each student takes the exact same test he or she took** before the curriculum started to see what sort of increase they will have.

**ALSO:** On the last day of class, be sure to have the teacher fill out the **Teacher Perception Survey** to send in to WSP. (That's on the WSP site too)



## Local Ecology

Here on the north coast there are two distinct seasons - one wet and one dry. We do have four seasons, but they pale in contrast. In the last ten to fifteen years, the rainy season started in earnest after Halloween and can run through May. The climate is temperate with a few freezing mornings and snow at sea level a novelty. The dry season along the coast is cool and generally foggy with warmer and sunnier days in the inland valleys.

Coastal forests are dominated by Sitka spruce, Redwood, and Douglas fir. The streams in this area are relatively short and can be flashy in nature (rise and fall quickly). There are larger rivers in the area but at this site we deal mostly with small coastal streams. Coho salmon and their life cycle is the main emphasis of work at this site.

Wildlife abounds on the north coast. Elk, deer, black bear and numerous small mammals can often be observed in this area. Bird watching is outstanding with Humboldt Bay being a major wintering and stopover for migrating birds. Get a good pair of binoculars and enjoy viewing the wonders of this area.

## Housing and Local Resources

### Housing Contact List

We recommend finding housing in the Arcata area. This will place you just five or ten minutes from AFRAMP or fifteen to twenty minutes from the HFAC nursery in Blue Lake. Housing is more expensive and more difficult to find in this area but convenience and transportation costs will more than make up for the added expense. Housing is most easily found between semesters and during the summer break at Humboldt State University.

#### Listings

The kiosk at the Arcata CO-OP Store on 8<sup>th</sup> and I Streets always has listings for single rooms in houses and some apartments for rent.

There is a housing board at HSU student union on campus with similar listings.

There are two real estate offices just north of the Arcata plaza on H and G Streets that have apartments and homes for rent.

Craigslist is always an option as well.

### Local Resource Contacts

Arcata Open Door Clinic  
770 10<sup>th</sup> st.  
Arcata Ca.

Mad River Chiropractic  
770 11<sup>th</sup> st.  
Arcata Ca.



822-7044

Mad River Community Hospital  
3800 Janes Rd.  
Arcata ca  
822-3621

## **Entertainment and Community Events**

### **Resources for Affordable Entertainment Options**

The Minor Theater in Arcata is small, but comfortable also shows some art house fare. McKinleyville and Eureka both have multiplex theatres with standard first-run movies.

Video rentals are available in most communities. In Arcata Figueredos seems to have the largest selection and they have other stores in the area that will deliver to your store requests for movies that may not be at that store.

Arcata has a great variety of dining options. APD (Arcata Pizza and Deli) serves good standard fare in large quantities. Think: garlic fries. Tomo or the Sushi Spot have good Japanese food. Going upscale a bit - try Abruzzi. Pizza: Big Louie's or Live from New York.

There are many more dining options in Arcata and the surrounding area.

### **Recurring Event List**

Arcata nearly always has some musical or art event happening. Humboldt State University has a variety of top-notch entertainment. HSU's Center Arts provides a listing of performances for the year. Summer is the time for festivals and good times. The Oyster Festival is usually the first big festival of the summer. If bi-valves aren't on your menu, there is a lot more to do. Music, dancing, and of course the oyster calling contest. The Humboldt Crabs baseball team usually kicks off their season in conjunction with the Oyster Festival. The price is right and you will see why home town baseball is such a big draw. And of course you will want to see and hear the word famous Crabgrass Band, a ballpark favorite.

For the 4<sup>th</sup> of July you will want to be on the Arcata Plaza. Music, dancing, good food and friendly people make for a great way to start your day. Fire works after dark can be seen from the ballpark or west facing hillsides in town.

Reggae, Kate Wolf, Earth Dance and many more festivals are just a few hours drive from Arcata.

For the hikers/backpackers, the north coast offers some of the more unique experiences. Easy day hikes are numerous in the area. For the experience of a lifetime, try the 25 mile beach hike on the Lost Coast between Petrolia and Shelter Cove. Inland to the Trinity Alps will give you a true alpine experience.

Rafting and kayaking on the local rivers can be relaxing, exciting, and downright dangerous if you're not careful. Try it - you will like it.